**Independent Central Bank**

1393. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to establish an independent Central Bank on the line of the Bank of England;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what benefits are anticipated for the industry and public at large from the proposed bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE); (a) to (c) At present no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

**Denial of dividend by UTI**

1394. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UTI has skipped the dividend for its flagship scheme US-64 this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that the denial of dividend will hit lakhs of investors belonging mostly to middle class; and

(d) if so, what compensation is proposed to be offered to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHFU ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) UTI Board of Trustees in its meeting held on 21st June, 2002 decided not to declare a dividend for US-64 since the financial condition of the scheme does not permit income distribution for the year ending 30th June, 2002.

(d) UTI has intimated that the scheme is now NAV based and the declaration of dividend can be made whenever the circumstances justify such declaration.